



Whole Washington Board

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House of Representatives, Way and Means Committee

RE: H.R. 1384

Letter in support of the Medicare for All Act of 2019

6/10/2019

To whom it may concern,

Whole Washington enthusiastically endorses H.R. 1384. We're a grassroots organization of nurses, healthcare advocates, and citizens of all stripes dedicated to the successful passage of universal healthcare, at the national level or state-wide.

We've heard stories from thousands of people suffering at the hands of our for-profit insurance system. Some are absolutely heartbreaking, filled with stress, suffering, and financial ruin. Some stories are maddening and confusing. We want to share just one of those stories with you. This one illustrates the stark contrast between a for-profit system and a system where profit plays no role.

A volunteer tells her account of contrasting healthcare experiences between Canada and the U.S.:

"In January, 2016 both my son and husband went into the emergency room for two different reasons in two different cities for approximately the same amount of time. My son went to Evergreen in Kirkland, WA and stayed about 6 hours. He had a CAT scan, and they discharged him without much help. The cost of the visit was \$2600. Insurance lowered the bill from over \$6000, but paid nothing.

healthcare is a human right



Later that same month, my husband went to Calgary, Alberta and forgot his asthma medicine. He went to the emergency room at 1:00 AM and stayed four hours. He got a refill on his prescriptions. Our insurance paid \$0. His total cost was \$650 CD, approximately \$460 USD.”

To summarize:

- US Emergency Room WITH insurance: \$2600 and no further help
- Canadian Emergency Room WITHOUT insurance: \$460 and includes medicine

We're the only developed country without a universal healthcare system. We pay significantly more and get less and less. It's time to acknowledge that profit has no place in healthcare. It's also time to call out that private insurance tied to employment is a drag on our economy, a chain on our personal freedom, and a barrier to social justice. This is a top concern of your constituents, and we're ready to advance.

The time has come. Please support HR 1384 as the smartest and fastest way to address our healthcare crisis. Let's put our most vulnerable populations first and treat all Americans with the dignity they deserve.

Signed,

The Whole Washington Board of Directors

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